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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ISLAMABAD 003474

DEPT ALSO FOR SA/PAB AND S/CT  
LONDON FOR POL:TUELLER  
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SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY RAPS USG KNUCKLES ON "ONE-SIDEDNESS" OF  
TERRORISM REPORT

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 3446; B. ISLAMABAD 3358

(U) CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE ALAN EASTHAM. REASON: 1.5 (B,D).

11. (C) SUMMARY: FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAMSHAD AHMED COMPLAINED TO THE AMBASSADOR ON MAY 8 ABOUT THE "ONE-SIDED VIEW" OF THE JUST-RELEASED USG REPORT ON TERRORISM, LAMENTING THAT INDIA WAS PORTRAYED MORE POSITIVELY THAN PAKISTAN. ACKNOWLEDGING A RECENT RESPITE (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE APRIL 26/27 KILLINGS OF 22 PEOPLE IN AZAD KASHMIR -- REF B), SHAMSHAD URGED THE U.S. TO USE ITS INFLUENCE IN DELHI TO STOP INDIAN SUPPORT FOR CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM. CONCERNING THE APRIL 26/27 INCIDENT, SHAMSHAD SAID THE GOP HAD CONSCIOUSLY DECIDED NOT TO RETALIATE, BUT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE SUCH RESTRAINT IF THERE WERE REPEATS OF SUCH INCIDENTS. HE NOTED THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF INCIDENTS OF THIS NATURE, DIALOGUE WITH INDIA WOULD BE DIFFICULT, BUT HE SAID THE GOP NEVERTHELESS LOOKS FORWARD TO A SUMMIT MEETING WITH THE INDIANS IN COLOMBO IN JULY TO EXPLORE HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE DIALOGUE. THE AMBASSADOR APPLAUDED THE GOP RESTRAINT IN THE WAKE OF THE "SHOCKING" EVENT OF APRIL 26/27 AND NOTED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD SHAMSHAD'S POINT THAT SUCH RESTRAINT WOULD NOT BE LIMITLESS IF THERE WERE REPEATS OF SUCH TRAGIC INCIDENTS. SHIFTING TO AFGHANISTAN, SHAMSHAD SAID THE GOP IS ENHEARTENED BY THE TALIBAN AGREEMENT TO RELEASE 1000 TONS OF FOOD FOR BAMBIAN AND SAID ISLAMABAD IS PUSHING FOR A COORDINATORS' MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. (SEE REF A FOR DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS.) END SUMMARY

12. (C) FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAMSHAD AHMED CALLED IN THE AMBASSADOR MAY 8 TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE RECENTLY-RELEASED USG REPORT, "PATTERNS OF GLOBAL TERRORISM." ACCORDING TO SHAMSHAD, THE REPORT GAVE A "ONE-SIDED VIEW" OF THE SITUATIONS IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PAKISTAN SECTION OF THE REPORT HIGHLIGHTED SECTARIAN VIOLENCE AND THE HARAKAT-UL-ANSAR, WHILE THE INDIA SECTION EMPHASIZED THE MILITANCY IN INDIAN-HELD KASHMIR, WHICH -- SHAMSHAD STRESSED -- IS ACTUALLY "AN INDIGENOUS FREEDOM STRUGGLE." HE DECRIED THAT THE REPORT REFERRED TO NUMEROUS BOMBINGS IN INDIA (ASCRIBED TO CROSS-BORDER SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM), WHILE THE REPORT MAKES NO MENTION OF TERRORIST BOMBINGS IN PAKISTAN, IN WHICH THE INDIANS HAVE HAD A ROLE, HE ADDED. "WE EXPECTED THE USG TO UNDERTAKE AN OBJECTIVE REVIEW OF THE SITUATIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES," HE LAMENTED. "WASHINGTON," HE CONTINUED, "MUST USE ITS INFLUENCE IN DELHI TO STOP GOI SUPPORT FOR CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM." FINISHING HIS THOUGHT, SHAMSHAD NOTED THAT IN RECENT WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN A "RESPITE" IN INDIAN-SUPPORTED TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE APRIL 26/27 SLAYINGS OF 22 KASHMIRIS IN AZAD KASHMIR (REF B).

13. (C) SHUFFLING NOTES, SHAMSHAD GAVE A VIRTUALLY VERBATIM REPEAT OF A MAY 4 BRIEFING GIVEN BY MFA ADDITIONAL SECRETARY (SOUTH ASIA) TARIQ ALTAH (AND ATTENDED BY POLOFF) ON THE KILLINGS IN AZAD KASHMIR. DESCRIBING THE INCIDENT AS "VERY SERIOUS," SHAMSHAD SAID THE INCIDENT WAS THE FIRST "TRANS-LINE OF CONTROL" INCIDENT OF THAT NATURE -- "THE ATTACK ACROSS THE LOC VIOLATED THE SANCTITY OF THE LINE OF CONTROL, SOMETHING WHICH MUST BE RESPECTED." PAKISTAN, HE

SAID, HAS MADE A DELIBERATE DECISION NOT TO RETALIATE TO REDUCE RISKS OF THE SITUATION "GETTING OUT OF CONTROL." HE ADDED THAT THE INCIDENT HAS HAD A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION, AND THERE MUST BE AN IMMEDIATE END TO SUCH EVENTS, WARNING THAT IF THERE ARE MORE SUCH INCIDENTS, "PAKISTAN WOULD FIND IT HARD NOT TO RETALIATE." OBSERVING THAT PAKISTAN CONDEMNS TERRORIST ACTS IN INDIAN-HELD KASHMIR, SHAMSHAD DECLARED THAT THERE IS A "QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCE" BETWEEN VIOLENT ACTS ON THE INDIAN SIDE -- "THERE'S A FREEDOM STRUGGLE UNDERWAY THERE" -- AND THE PAK SIDE, "WHERE THERE IS NO SUCH STRUGGLE."

14. (C) SHIFTING FOCUS, SHAMSHAD ASSERTED THAT "PAKISTAN HAS BEEN WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNE TIME TO PICK UP THE THREAD OF INDO-PAK DIALOGUE." HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT DELHI WOULD "ADOPT A SERIOUS ATTITUDE" TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR RESUMING THE DIALOGUE. DECLARING THAT THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN NEED TO BE CONVINCED ON THE DIALOGUE, SHAMSHAD SAID THAT IN THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE "NO GOVERNMENT CAN AFFORD TO CARRY ON THE TALKS." SHAMSHAD OBSERVED THAT ISLAMABAD NEVERTHELESS IS "EARNESTLY LOOKING FORWARD" TO THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS' MEETING IN COLOMBO "TO EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE." HE SAID ISLAMABAD WOULD SEND INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS HIGH COMMISSION IN DELHI TO THIS EFFECT, BUT "ONLY AFTER THE CURRENT PUBLIC ATTITUDE SUBSIDES." WASHINGTON, HE ADDED, CAN PLAY A ROLE IN KEEPING TEMPERS LOW. RETURNING TO HIS THEME AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, SHAMSHAD SAID WASHINGTON SHOULD AVOID TAKING PRO-INDIAN STANCES WHICH PROVOKE A PAKISTANI REACTION, ADDING THAT THE GOP "IS DOING ITS BEST" TO CONTROL THE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE RECENTLY-ANNOUNCED MTCR-RELATED SANCTIONS ON KHAN RESEARCH LABORATORIES. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT THE GOP SEEMED TO BE SUCCEEDING IN THAT REGARD AS THE REACTION HAS BEEN "MODEST."

15. (C) RESPONDING TO SHAMSHAD'S LENGTHY MONOLOGUE, THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD CONVEY TO WASHINGTON THE GOP'S CONCERNS ABOUT THE TERRORISM REPORT. DODGING THE AMBASSADOR'S SEVERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING WHY THE ATTACKERS IN THE APRIL 26/27 INCIDENT FOCUSED ON ONLY TWO FAMILIES, SHAMSHAD SAID THE KILLERS WANTED TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE THAT THE INCIDENT WAS "AN INSIDE JOB." RESPONDING TO ANOTHER QUERY, SHAMSHAD SAID THE GOP WAS SURE THE ATTACKERS HAD COME FROM ACROSS THE LOC -- "WE HAVE INTERCEPTS THAT MAKE THAT CLEAR," HE NOTED. TERMING THE INCIDENT "SHOCKING AND UNFORGIVABLE," THE AMBASSADOR APPLAUDED THE RESTRAINT THAT PAKISTAN HAS EXERCISED IN THE WAKE OF THE INCIDENT, ADDING THAT HE UNDERSTANDS SHAMSHAD'S POINT THAT SUCH RESTRAINT WOULD NOT BE LIMITLESS IF SUCH INCIDENTS WERE REPEATED. THE AMBASSADOR UNDERScoreD THAT THE INCIDENT SHOULD BE A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION FOR THE INDO-PAK DIALOGUE. RETURNING YET AGAIN TO HIS THEME OF USG ONE-SIDEDNESS, SHAMSHAD REGRETTED THAT THE USG HAD NOT ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE KILLINGS, REITERATING THAT WASHINGTON DOES NOT MENTION THE INDIAN ROLE IN FOMENTING VIOLENCE IN PAKISTAN -- "FOR US THIS IS VERY HARD TO EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE," HE ADDED. WARMING TO THIS THEME, SHAMSHAD REGRETTED THE REPORTED WASHINGTON DENIAL THAT IT WAS CONSIDERING SANCTIONING INDIA ON THE SAGARIKA MISSILE.

"BREAKTHROUGH ON AFGHANISTAN"

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16. (C) TURNING TO THE RECENT AFGHANISTAN STEERING COMMITTEE TALKS IN ISLAMABAD BETWEEN THE TALIBAN AND THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE, SHAMSHAD SAID THE TALKS HAD BEEN "A GOOD SUCCESS, A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH, THE FIRST TIME IN A FEW YEARS THAT THE SIDES SAT TOGETHER FACE-TO-FACE." HE GAVE THE U.S. AND HIS OWN GOVERNMENT CREDIT FOR THE MEETINGS. PAKISTAN'S DESIRE, HE ADDED, IS TO FACILITATE THE AFGHANISTAN DIALOGUE PROCESS, AND HE RECOUNTED PAK EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT THE TALKS. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE FIVE DAYS OF TALKS HAD BEEN "INCONCLUSIVE," ONE SHOULD NOT BE DISCOURAGED -- "PAKISTAN IS KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH ALL PARTIES." TAKING CREDIT FOR THE RECENT TALIBAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY WOULD ALLOW 1000 TONS OF FOOD AID INTO BAMIAN PROVINCE, SHAMSHAD SAID THIS "MAKES QUITE CLEAR THAT IF YOU DEAL WITH THE TALIBAN, THEN YOU CAN GET EVERYTHING." THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT "MAYBE NOT EVERYTHING." WHAT IS IMPORTANT, SHAMSHAD UNDERScoreD, IS HOW ONE DEALS WITH THE TALIBAN. SCORING THE TALIBAN ANNOUNCEMENT AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, SHAMSHAD SAID THE GOP IS NOW PUSHING FOR A "COORDINATORS' MEETING" BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES -- "PAKISTAN IS INTENSIFYING ITS EFFORTS TO GET THE TWO SIDES BACK TOGETHER SOON; WE MUST NOT LOSE THE MOMENTUM." HE PROMISED TO KEEP THE AMBASSADOR

FULLY INFORMED OF THE GOP'S PROGRESS ON THE AFGHANISTAN FRONT.

17. (C) NOTING AGREEMENT WITH THE GOP ON AFGHANISTAN, THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT HE WOULD CHARACTERIZE THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AS "A STEP FORWARD" RATHER THAN A BREAKTHROUGH. HE ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE GOP'S CONTRIBUTION IN HELPING MAKE THE MEETING HAPPEN. SHAMSHAD SAID NORTHERN LEADER PROFESSOR RABBANI HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE TALIBAN ANNOUNCEMENT ON ALLOWING 1000 TONS OF FOOD AID INTO BAMIYAN AND WAS NOW CONSULTING HIS ALLIANCE COLLEAGUES. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID DIVERGENCE WITHIN THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE WAS "THE BIGGEST PROBLEM," TO WHICH THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THE TALIBAN, TOO, HAD TROUBLES WITHIN ITS OWN RANKS. SUPPORTING THE NOTION OF A COORDINATORS' MEETING, THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT THE U.S. AND PAKISTAN ARE "ON THE SAME WAVE-LENGTH." THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED, IS THAT THE SIDES CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AGREEMENT ON "NO MILITARY OFFENSIVES." ALL SIDES, HE UNDERScoreD, MUST STAY FOCUSSED ON THIS ESSENTIAL POINT.

18. (C) DREDGING UP AN OLD THEME, SHAMSHAD CALLED FOR AN ARMS EMBARGO ON AFGHANISTAN AND ASSERTED THAT PAKISTAN IS READY TO COOPERATE ON THIS. HE SAID ISLAMABAD IS "SURPRISED" THAT THE SIX PLUS TWO PROCESS IS "SO CASUAL" ON THE NEED FOR AN EMBARGO. RESPONDING, THE AMBASSADOR QUOTED UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE LAKHDAR BRAHIMI AS SAYING THAT IF PAKISTAN AND IRAN AGREE TO CUT OFF ARMS, THEN THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR AN EMBARGO, AND, WITHOUT PAK-IRANIAN AGREEMENT, AN EMBARGO WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

19. (C) COMMENT: THIS MEETING WAS VINTAGE SHAMSHAD, WHO DUTIFULLY-- AND WITH SOME PLEASURE -- LAMBASTED AMERICA ON THE LATEST PERCEIVED SLIGHT, BUT WAS BEREFT OF ANY FRESH THINKING ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED IN STRENGTHENING THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP OR ON HOW TO WORK TOGETHER MOST CONSTRUCTIVELY IN ADVANCING PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN. BUT, WE HAVE LEARNED NOT TO EXPECT TOO MUCH.

EASTHAM